

**Written Testimony of John Humphries, CT Roundtable on Climate & Jobs
Before the CT General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee**

**Written Testimony Concerning Governor's Bill 6360 AN ACT CONCERNING
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONNECTICUT'S COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY
STRATEGY**

First, I want to express my appreciation to the committee co-chairs, Senator Duff and Rep. Reed, and all the members of the Committee for accepting this testimony.

I have been helping to convene the CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs, a unique collaboration between the CT AFL-CIO and the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, designed to promote dialogue among labor, religious, environmental and community leaders concerned about the challenge of reducing the threat of climate change while creating good-paying jobs as part of a sustainable economy. We believe that State energy and environmental policies need to address the dual crises of economic stagnation and climate change.

I also own and live in a 3-family house in the West End of Hartford. This past summer I paid for the Home Energy Solutions audits for all three of the units in my 100-yr-old house. I followed up by having insulation installed in the attic and in the exterior walls of the house.

We are pleased with the Comprehensive Energy Strategy's emphasis on energy efficiency as the least-cost way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and as the way to create large numbers of local jobs. We urge an immediate increase in funding to these programs. From my own experience of having to pay out-of-pocket for these improvements to all three of my units, I support the exploration of alternative payment mechanisms, including on-bill payment and cost-sharing between tenants and landlords, as well as methods to encourage more homeowners to take measures beyond air sealing and lighting upgrades.

We support the Strategy's recommendation to study the possibility of raising the targets for the State's renewable portfolio standards beyond the current commitment to 20% by 2020. However, we believe that renewable energy standards should advocate sources of energy that are most beneficial for carbon reduction without causing negative environmental and social effects, as well as sources that help create additional jobs here in Connecticut. We do not believe that Canadian hydropower or trash-to-energy projects meet those goals. Sending our money to Canada or using it to prop up the incinerators will reduce incentives to expand regional wind energy and in-state solar and fuel cell

development. Let's invest our energy dollars in local and regional economic activity.

We have concerns about the heavy emphasis on expansion of natural gas infrastructure. Recognizing the emission of methane during extraction, storage and transmission, DEEP needs to quantify the greenhouse gas pollution impact of the proposed natural gas expansion over the investment lifetime of the projects and compare that impact with alternative investments.

The environmental effects of fracking on nearby states need to be seriously taken into account. Does Connecticut really want to economically benefit from the destruction of the water, land, and air of its neighbors?

Investment in expanded natural gas infrastructure should be explicitly linked to energy efficiency retrofits, both in financing and installation. This will maximize immediate return in energy use savings and job creation, as well as yield long-term savings that will continue beyond any future shift from natural gas to renewable sources. If we're going to invest money in home heating system conversions, then we should make sure most of the heat actually stays in the homes.

Finally, the Comprehensive Energy Strategy states that "additional measures and breakthrough technologies will be required to achieve the goal of an 80% emissions reduction by 2050 as spelled out in the State's 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act." The legislature needs to identify and implement such "additional measures" as quickly as possible to ensure the achievement of the goals set out in the earlier statute.

Thank you.

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